Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Reverend W. T. Tackaberry arrived in Pierre on one of the first passenger trains in November 1880, and began holding Methodist services in a hotel, various stores, and the depot; and,

Whereas, The Methodist presence in Pierre continued to grow from the 18 members that were reported that first year; and,

Whereas, The church continued to grow, building the first chapel in 1881, and the second larger structure in 1883; and,

Whereas, By 1910, the congregation of 150 had determined that it needed a building "representative of Methodism in the Capital City," and Governor Vessey served as head of the building committee; and,

Whereas, The membership has also continued to grow and to include persons who have been active in all areas of state and local government as well as the private sector; and,

Whereas, The church has been visited by a former U.S. President, President Taft, in 1911; and,

Whereas, That same building has continued to serve the community by providing space for the first gymnasium and plunge pool, library space, and extra school classrooms during the building of the Oahe Dam; and,

Whereas, The First United Methodist Church of Pierre has been celebrating 125 years of ministry to this community this fall and will hold a special observance on November 20, 2005:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 20, 2005, as

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PIERRE DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State